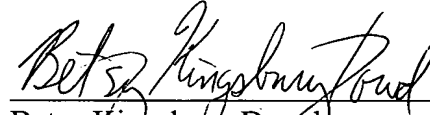


**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment prior to examination of the above-referenced application. Applicants have amended the above-identified application in order to remove multiple dependencies and reference numerals from the claims. In addition, Applicants have added section headings to the specification, as well as a claim of priority to the International Application, in order to conform with U.S. practice. Applicants believe that the claims as amended are now in proper form for examination.

In view of the foregoing submission, examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Betsy Kingsbury Dowd  
Registration No.: 52,830  
Attorney for Applicants

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP  
6900 Jericho Turnpike  
Syosset, New York 11791-4407  
(516) 822-3550  
BKD:tt

204817\_1